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STATINTL

Gun Control Measure Put on Agenda For Next Senate Committee Session

By Robert L. Asher

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted yesterday to take up President Johnson's gun control bill at its next session as supporters predicted that they can beat down a planned attempt to scuttle the measure.

The move to put the bill on the agenda for the next meeting, tentatively set for next week, was led by Sens. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Despite plans by the bill's chief Senate opponent Sen. Roman L. Hruska (R-Neb.), to push for a substitute measure exempting all rifles and shotguns from any new controls, backers of the President's bill

said they think they have the necessary votes.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) who for years has been leading the campaign to regulate firearms traffic, said he is more optimistic than ever about the bill, "because I believe the country wants it."

But Hruska argued that rifles and shotguns account for only about 600 killings a year and therefore should not be subject to any new checks on mail-order sales or over-the-counter purchases.

While 5700 of the 10,000 willful killings in the United States last year were caused by hand guns, "the real offender."

The Administration's bill would ban all interstate mail-

order sales of hand guns. Hruska's proposal would permit them with an affidavit procedure.

Dodd noted that in areas where tighter controls already are in effect, the percentage of murders by firearms is much lower. He pointed out that in Hruska's state of Nebraska, guns account for about 70 per cent of the deaths, compared with about 32 per cent in New York and 35 per cent in Massachusetts.

Hruska contends that new controls on long guns—affidavits, age limits, or checks against imported firearms—would cause "inconvenience, added expense, and delay" for purchasers.